NITSL Now

NITSL Newsletter

Our goal is to keep members informed and involved. Please check out the "NITSL Snippets" section at the bottom of the newsletter for links to additional information. Feel free to provide feedback or comments at any time.

Chairman's Update

Whew…what a year. We've been faced with numerous challenges, personally and professionally. I'd like to consider myself an optimistic person, but 2020 makes it difficult. I've been given advice from my Senior Leadership, as well as insights from several articles on leadership. What I learned is that we must look for the opportunities. Opportunities to learn from these challenges and adjust to a new normal. Look for opportunities to improve strategy, processes, culture and technology that work in a new normal. NITSL has a critical role in identifying change needed for our industry to be successful. I look forward to seeing how the subcommittees and their initiatives change, as well as the executive committee strategy. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Sincerely, Matt Coulter.

Call for Papers

Are you an industry expert, vendor thought leader or professional in Nuclear IT willing to share your knowledge and insight with other NITSL Members / colleagues? If so, apply to be a part of the NITSL 2021 Annual Conference.

The conference takes place July 12 - 15, 2021, at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, AZ. Speaking opportunities are available for the general and breakout sessions.

Just email your topic to Matt Coulter at Matthew.Coulter@duke-energy.com or Cathy Przyjemski at cathy.przyjemski@nitsl.org by **January 3rd**. The NITSL EC will review the submissions and select which submissions to include in the conference. Your submission does not need to be tied to a Standing Committees but should support the NITSL goal (Note vendor presentations must be vendor neutral and use the NITSL template)

COVID-19 and the upcoming NISTL conference:

While COVID-19 continues to spread in the U.S., we are hopeful the vaccine will soon put us on the path towards normalcy. The 2021 conference is scheduled to occur in Scottsdale, Arizona July 12-15. To ensure we keep our NITSL community safe, the Conference Planning Committee and Executive Committee is closely monitoring this situation and will follow the CDC's guidelines related to mass gatherings. We will determine if an in-person or virtual conference will best serve our members and vendors, and provide an update during the first quarter of 2021.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Cathy Przyjemski at cathy.przyjemski@nitsl.org , and Thank You for your understanding during these unprecedented times.

Be SAFE!!

Mystery solved at Chernobyl using Drones:

There has been a mystery to solve at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant for over 33 years. Was nuclear waste still present in one of the plant's reactors? When the disaster struck Chernobyl Plant, Reactor Five was under construction and nearly complete. After the accident there was no record of Reactor Five receiving the uranium fuel bars for which they had been made.

Chernobyl's decommissioning team reached out to Fyability drones to determine whether any nuclear waste remained in the reactor. The reactor is structurally sound but accessing the area previously was impossible due to the height of the walls off the ground.

Flyability performs flying missions too difficult or dangerous for people. Using their drone most commonly used for inspections at nuclear power plants, the drone operators, while standing in the middle of 82 foot pit inside the reactor, flew the drone over a wall more than 230 feet high and were successful at collecting video and images in the Reactor Five.

The Chernobyl decommissioning team had little experience with using drones to collect visual data remotely. The Flyability drone is unique, as it sits inside a protective cage, allowing it to enter confined indoor spaces in order to collect visual data for inspection purposes.

The video and photos from the drone determined the pools were empty of nuclear waste. Before the drone inspection there was no evidence that the holding pools were empty. Following the mission, the Chernobyl decommissioning team planned to include the visual evidence in a report submitted to international authorities regarding the status of the plant's reactors.

Source:

https://dronelife.com/2020/11/18/drones-solve-a-nuclear-waste-mystery-at-chernobyl/

Cyber Awareness - How the cyber 'Grinch' can steal your information

Tis the season for shopping and holiday travel, but be on the lookout for scams as well. Don't let the Grinch dampen your holiday spirit. Protect yourself and your personal information by following these helpful tips.

Don't connect to public Wi-Fi. Avoid using public Wi-Fi for online banking, shopping or other personal business. Scammers can intercept personal information while you make a transaction. Instead of connecting to public Wi-Fi, a safe alternative is to disable the Wi-Fi connection and use cellular data when accessing online banking and shopping.

Avoid using public charging stations. We've all been there – your phone is on low battery or dies right when you need it. While there's the temptation to use a public charging station, such as one at an airport or library, it could do more harm than good. Connecting to a public charging station makes your phone vulnerable to unexpected malware. A full battery isn't worth a virus. Find a trusted outlet to use instead.

Don't like to be attached to the wall? Purchase your own portable power pack for travel needs and have power on the go.

Be aware of phishing scams. Be aware of where a link could take you – it could give you a virus. Not sure? A good tip is to hover the cursor over the link to see the URL. If it looks like gibberish, is too long or contains a misspelling of a popular brand or website, then it's not legitimate. For example, a phony link could have a URL like Target.com while the real address wouldn't have the uppercase T. Remember, if it seems too good to be true, then it probably is too good to be true. A Nigerian prince doesn't want to give away his fortune this holiday season.

No one wants their personal information stolen, and a virus on your device is worse than coal in your stocking. Stay safe during the holidays.

Standing Committee Leads

Infrastructure & Applications: Matt Rhone (Talen) – Chair; Alisha Bettcher (APS) – Co-chair

Software Quality Assurance: Kimberlee Passalugo (Entergy) – Chair; Michelle Vera (Exelon) – Co-chair

Cyber Security: Dewey Coulon (Entergy) – Chair; Stacy Baskin (Southern) – Co-chair

Digital Controls: Tim Streeter (Exelon) – Chair; Nick Bryant (Southern) – Co-chair

Cyber Security Update

On December 8, 2020 the Cyber Security Committee hosted a joint discussion with NEI and the industry to discuss key topic areas following a closed and open public meeting with the NRC. The topic of conversation was regarding NEI alignment with the NRC on regulatory cyber requirements for Balance of Plant, Important to Safety, and Safety Related systems. The discussion was well attended and allowed both NEI and the industry to discuss internal implementation plans moving forward and any barriers they faced.

Infrastructure & Applications Update

Our first several monthly meetings have been well attended but additional participation is always welcome. Here are some highlights:

We've continued the brief "technology topics" from last year as part of a continuous learning mindset. So far this year topics have included:

- Warehouse Vertical Lift Modules – Alisha Bettcher (APS)
- Microsoft Stream – Morgan Keeler (Exelon)
- Mobile Device Selection – Scott Kresge (Talen Energy)

We added a recurring "utility spotlight" to get to know one of our represented companies a little better. One of our members shares some personal thoughts based around some leading questions related to working at their company and the things they are working on. Thank you to those from Duke (David Arndt, Marty Vance), Southern (Eric Jurotich), and

Wolf Creek (Matt Hall) who have contributed already and we look forward to hearing from others throughout the year.

- Advisory members from EPRI (Rob Austin), INL (Johanna Oxstrand, Ahmad Al Rashdan), and INPO (Hamid Goshvar) have each provided updates in one of our monthly meetings for one or more of their projects that would be of interest to I&A members.

Initiative leads are working to further define the description, objectives, and participation needs for each topic. Below is the current list of initiatives. We are currently in need of a new lead for the Dynamic Adaptive Procedures initiative. If you would like to be involved in any of these please reach out to Matt Rhone and Alisha Bettcher, or one of the initiative leads.

- Dynamic Adaptive Procedures (**Lead needed**)
- Changing Nature of Work (Eric Jurotich, Southern)
- Automation for Asset Performance Management (Joe Verbout, Xcel)
- 10CFR810 Compliance (Shamika Jones, Exelon)
- Business and IT Partnership (Alisha Bettcher, APS)
- Serverless Computing (Matt Rhone, Talen Energy)
- Mobility and Connected Worker (Morgan Keeler, Exelon)

Hope you have a great Holiday!

-Matt

Digital Controls Update

Successfully implementing a new monthly agenda item where members provide a brief (~5-10 minute) overview of a digital project at their facility highlighting successes, challenges and lessons learned. This was an idea brought up in our first meeting and has been implemented in our last two meetings. The first two presentations were done by Nick Bryant and Craig Crandall. Nick presented an overview of the Southern Company's Thermal Cameras/Thermography project in their Low Voltage Switch Yard and Craig presented Ginna's Gas Generator Temperature Panel modification. Both individuals did a nice job with very positive feedback, generating some good discussions in those meetings.

Time was well spent in our first three meetings refining and re-tooling the initiatives that came out of the 2020 conference working sessions. The resultant set of initiatives have enabled the committee to focus on what the NITSL membership really needs in regards to nuclear digital systems, upgrades, modifications, etc.

Software Quality Assurance Update

No update at this time.

One Last Safety Thought

The winter holiday season is a time for celebration, home cooking, decorating and entertaining. Unfortunately, the holidays also increase the risk of fire and other accidents.

Below are a few tips to help make your holiday season safer and more enjoyable.

Holiday Lighting

- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings, and replace damaged items before plugging lights in.
- Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible and flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- Take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp and breakable, and keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children.
- Avoid trimmings that resemble candy and food that may tempt a young child to put them in his/her mouth.

Trees

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.
- Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.

Children & Pets

- Keep decorations at least 6 inches above the child's reach.
- Keep any ribbons on gifts and tree ornaments shorter than 7 inches. A child could wrap a longer strand of ribbon around their neck and choke.
- Store scissors and any sharp objects that you use to wrap presents out of your child's reach.

Source:

https://www.nachi.org/holidaysafety.htm

NITSL Snippets

- Need to know who to contact? Visit the NITSL website and a list of the current Executive Committee members and Standing Committee chairs/co-chairs.
- The CISA has multiple free remote courses to help improve your IT security skills. Visit CISA for more information.
- Looking for a tool to assess your security posture of your SCADA systems? Check out the DHS CSET tool CSET.

Visit us at www.nitsl.org. Comments, questions or story ideas are always welcome.